## REMARKS

The Office Action contained the following rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 14, 15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 747,293;

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 264 259 to Kouchiwa et al.; and

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,840,737 to Phillips et al. In view of GB 747,293.

GB 747,293 discloses an oral suspension composition containing erythromycin, a buffer and a suspending agent. The buffer maintains the pH of the suspension in the range of 7 to 10 and may be any acid neutralizing base or salt of a strong base or salt of a strong base and a weak acid; as for example aluminum hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, sodium acetate, magnesium trisilicate, sodium phosphate, calcium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate and mixtures thereof.

The claims as presently amended are directed to a solid formulation, not liquid suspensions as disclosed in GB 747,293. Furthermore, GB 747,293 does not disclose or suggest the use or importance of a combination of a water-soluble and a water-insoluble neutralizer as is presently claimed.

For the above noted reasons GB 747,293 does not anticipate claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 14, 15, 17 and 18 and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Kouchiwa et al. discloses a solid pharmaceutical composition containing a 1.4-dihydropyridine derivative and a stabilizer which is at least one of sodium carbonate,

sodium hydrogen carbonate, calcium carbonate and calcium hydrogen phosphate. Kouchiwa et al. adds these stabilizers to improve the shelf life of their composition and are not concerned with protecting a pharmaceutical compound from gastric fluid degradation. The control of pH and other in vivo considerations are not factors addressed by Kouchiwa et al. Thus, the importance of using a combination of water-soluble and water-insoluble neutralizers is not taught. For the above noted reasons claims 1, 5, 6 and 17 are not anticipated by Kouchiwa et al. and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Phillips discloses an aqueous solution or suspension of omeprazole containing a bicarbonate. The combination of Phillips and GB 747,293 lead only to a liquid formulation and does not disclose or suggest the importance of a combination of water-soluble and water-insoluble neutralizers in a solid formulation as is presently claimed. Thus, the Section 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-21 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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